

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03

PRS-01 SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-04 INSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /103 W

----- 050503

R 061619Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8937

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COPENHAGEN 1241

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, KE, KS, US, DA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN DENMARK AND/OR

US VISA APPLICATION BY ROK DIPLOMAT

1. ON MAY 4, DANISH PRESS BROKE STORY THAT HO RIM KIM, SECOND SECRETARY, ROK EMBASSY, COPENHAGEN, HAD ASKED DANISH POLICE FOR PROTECTION FROM ROK EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHO, HE CLAIMED, INTERROGATED HIM ON EVENING MAY 1-2. AFTER QUESTIONING, KIM TOOK WIFE AND INFANT CHILD (WHO APPARENTLY AMCIT) TO HOME OF FRIEND IN COPENHAGEN SUBURB, ASKED POLICE FOR PROTECTION, WITH MATTER THEREUPON BEING PASSED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL. ROK AMBASSADOR HAS CONSULTED WITH PROTOCOL AND, ACCORDING PRESS, CHARGED KIM WITH STEALING DOLS 10,000.00 FROM EMBASSY FUNDS TO FINANCE BUSINESS IN US, AND ILLEGAL ACQUISITION OF SPOTTED ANIMAL SKINS IN KENYA AND THEIR SALE IN DENMARK. KIM FOR HIS PART IS REPORTED TO CLAIM THAT HE IS BEING POLITICALLY PERSECUTED AND THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO RETURN TO KOREA WHERE SITUATION IS "UNSATISFACTORY".

2. ON MAY 3 (BEFORE CASE WAS EITHER PUBLICIZED OR OTHERWISE KNOWN TO EMBASSY), KIM CALLED EMBOFF TO DETERMINE STATUS OF AMCIT CHILD

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VIS-A-VIS DANISH AUTHORITIES AND, AFTER HE WAS REFERRED TO PROTOCOL

WHICH WOULD NORMALLY DEAL WITH STATUS OF CHILD OF DIPLOMAT ACCREDITED TO DENMARK, SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING LEAVING ROK FOREIGN SERVICE WHERE COLLEAGUES WERE GIVING HIM "A HARD TIME" AND GOING INTO BUSINESS IN US. EMBOFF ADVISED HE WOULD BE WELCOME APPLY FOR EITHER NIV OR IV WITH EMBASSY PROCESSING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERTINENT LAW AND REGS.

3. SHOULD EITHER DANISH AUTHORITIES OR KIM APPROACH EMBASSY ON ISSUANCE OF EITHER NIV OR IV TO KIM AND HIS WIFE (WHO WE BELIEVE IS KOREAN CITIZEN), WE PROPOSE TO REPLY THAT THEY ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR EITHER TYPE OF VISA WHICH WILL BE PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH US REGULATIONS. PRESS INQUIRIES WILL BE RESPONDED TO BY SAYING THAT VISA RECORDS ARE CONSIDERED PRIVILEGED AND THAT EMBASSY IS THUS UNABLE

TO RESPOND TO INQUIRY. SHOULD ROK EMBASSY ASK ABOUT THIS CASE, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO NOTE PRIVILEGED CHARACTER OF VISA APPLICATIONS BUT ALSO TO POINT OUT THAT EMBASSY WILL CLEARLY PROCESS ALL APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING ANY SUBMITTED BY KIMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL PERTINENT US REGULATIONS.

4. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CASE BRIEFLY WITH MEMBER OF MFA POLITICAL DIVISION (KAPEL) WHO SAID MATTER BEING HANDLED ENTIRELY BY PROTOCOL, IN HOPES OF AVOIDING POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIFFICULTIES TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT KIM HAS SO FAR RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO REQUEST FOR POLICE PROTECTION, CAREFULLY AVOIDING IDEA OF "POLITICAL ASYLUM". KAPEL'S IMPRESSION IS THAT SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY HAS HARD LINE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH COULD COMPLICATE THEIR RELATIONS WITH DENMARK. KIM CASE UNFORTUNATELY BROKE JUST AS NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER O MAN SOK WAS DEPARTING COPENHAGEN. LOCAL NORTH KOREAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY TRIED TO EXPLOIT IT DURING DEPARTURE CEREMONIES BY ALLEGING THAT ROK EMBASSIES EVERYWHERE FULL OF SUCH CASES BUT SO FAR WITHOUT PERCEPTIBLE EFFECT IN MEDIA.

5. ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO COMMENT.

DECONTROL MAY 1, 1975.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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